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In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for measuring blood pressure, comprising a generally tubular constrictable sleeve or cuff for a limb of a person, a source for fluid pressure, a detector for providing measurements of slowly varying static pressures in said sleeve or cuff, and microphone means adapted for being arranged, in use, in proximity to an artery, wherein the cuff is at least partly enclosed in two essentially concave shell parts displaying a stiffness in an axial direction, said shell parts being openable against a restoring force, [[and]] wherein the microphone means comprises a linear array of microphone elements disposed on a joint support which emulates a universal joint in one shell part essentially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of such shell part and near the lower end; and wherein an inelastic strap attached to one shell part is provided to close a gap between the shell parts.

2. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein signal selection means of the diversity reception type are used to select the microphone that provides the best signal-to-noise ratio.

3. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the microphone signal is amplified and made available to an electroacoustic converter for enabling listening to the signal.

4. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the signal is output via a built-in speaker in the apparatus.

5. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the signal is output via a wireless link to a receiver connected to earpieces adapted to be worn, in use, by an auscultating physician.

6. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising signal processing means for combining information derived from measurements of slowly varying